On page 6, line 18, change "take place" to --occur--.

On page 6, line 20, delete "one and" and delete "action".

On page 7, line 1, change "Claims" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Insert the Abstract annexed hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 1 - 9 and cancel substitute claims 1 - 7, without prejudice, and add new claims 8 - 17 as follows:

8. (New) A method for operating a voice-controlled system in a motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

detecting a total signal by a plurality of microphones, the total signal including a voice signal and a background noise signal;

performing a frequency shift by an amount of Δ F on the total signal detected by each microphone;

subtracting the frequency-shifted total signal of a first one of the plurality of microphones from the detected total signal of a second one of the plurality of microphones before shifting the frequency of the total signal of the second one of the plurality of the microphones and vice versa; and

transmitting the frequency-shifted total signal to one of an input to a voice-controlled device and at least one loudspeaker.

9. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the voice-controlled system includes at least one of a communication device and a two-way intercom device.

10. (New) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

defining an arbitrary acoustic model based on the detected total signals; and

ABSTRACT

A device for operating voice-controlled systems, such as communication and/or intercommunication systems in motor vehicles, includes a plurality of microphones and at least one loudspeaker. Voice signals received by the microphones are transmitted to the at least one loudspeaker. The voice signals are subjected to a low-value frequency shift before being transmitted to the loudspeaker(s) or to the input of a voice-controlled device to thereby suppress feedback.